

News

from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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ICC Approves SBC Request to Charge Competitors Higher Wholesale Rates

The Illinois Commerce Commission on Wednesday approved an order allowing SBC/Ameritech Illinois to charge competing telecommunications companies more to access the SBC network.

The Commission order, which passed on a vote of 5-0, directs SBC to file revised tariffs for wholesale service within the next week.

Commission Chairman Ed Hurley said the setting wholesale rates is an “inexact science” that requires “tremendous balance between the interests of the company that has invested in developing the network and the customers who ultimately benefit from having choices in their service providers.

“This is a very tough decision, but I believe we have arrived at a fair decision that balances the interests of all concerned,” Hurley said.

“The order the Commission enters today grants a modest increase to the rates that SBC Illinois can charge those who choose to purchase its lines for their customers. This order does not grant a rate increase to the citizens of Illinois as some have repeatedly stated,” he emphasized.

SBC/Ameritech Illinois initially proposed plans to charge on average approximately \$9.45 more to competitors to access the network every month. Competing telecommunications companies pay fees for the different parts of the network they need to offer service to customers. The Commission ultimately approved a wholesale rate increase that will average roughly \$3.75 per month.

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